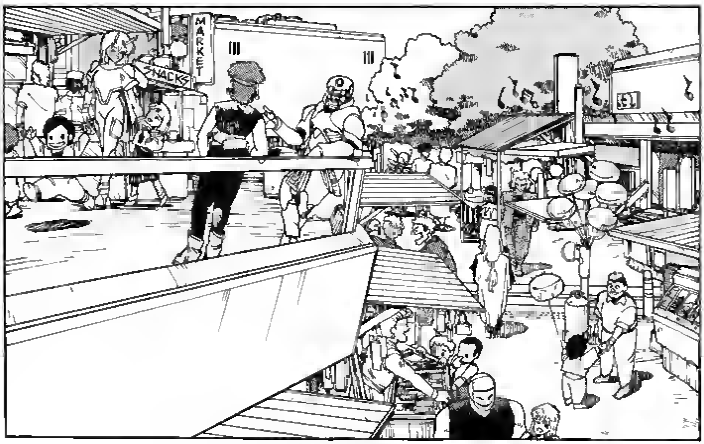
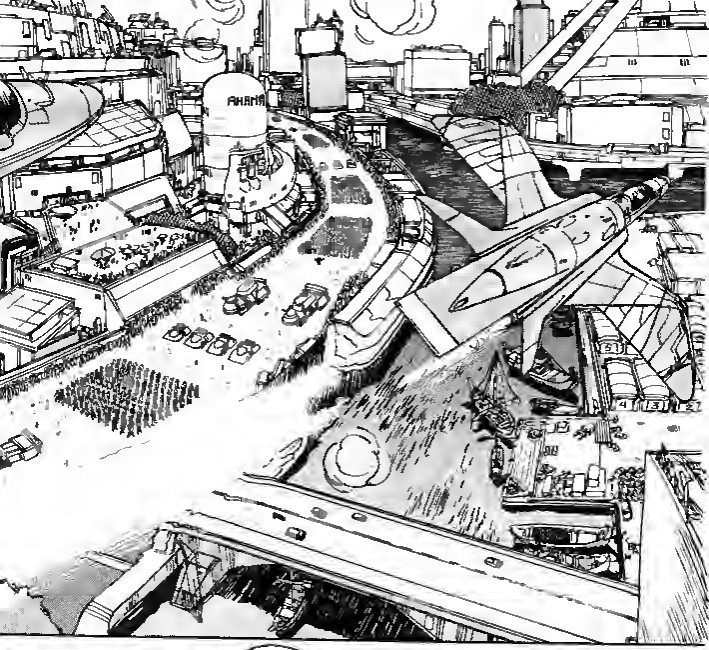
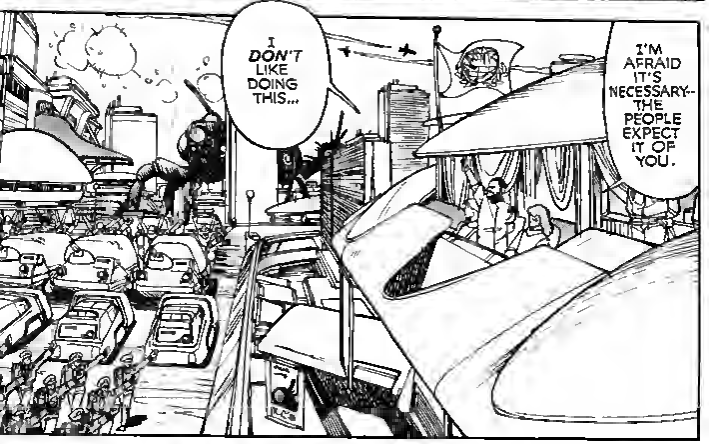
11. ZERO HOUR



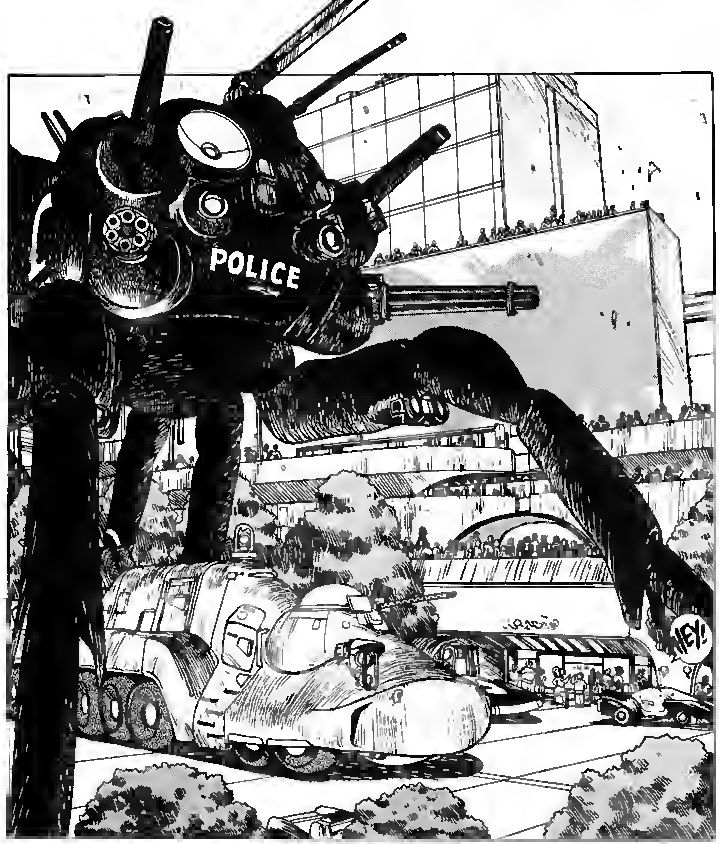
WELL, HEY, I FIGURE THEY LOOK LIKE *MUTANT SPIDERS*, MAN! BUT I GUESS WE NEED 'EM, *huh?*
WHAT BIOROIDS *REALLY* NEED IS *TRUE MORALITY*! AUGMENTED BODIES ARE NOT THE ANS--
WOW! I WISH THERE WAS A FESTIVAL *EVERY* DAY!
SHALL WE GO WATCH THE POLICE PARADE?
NOW!
OOOH!
WOW!!


AHAHA

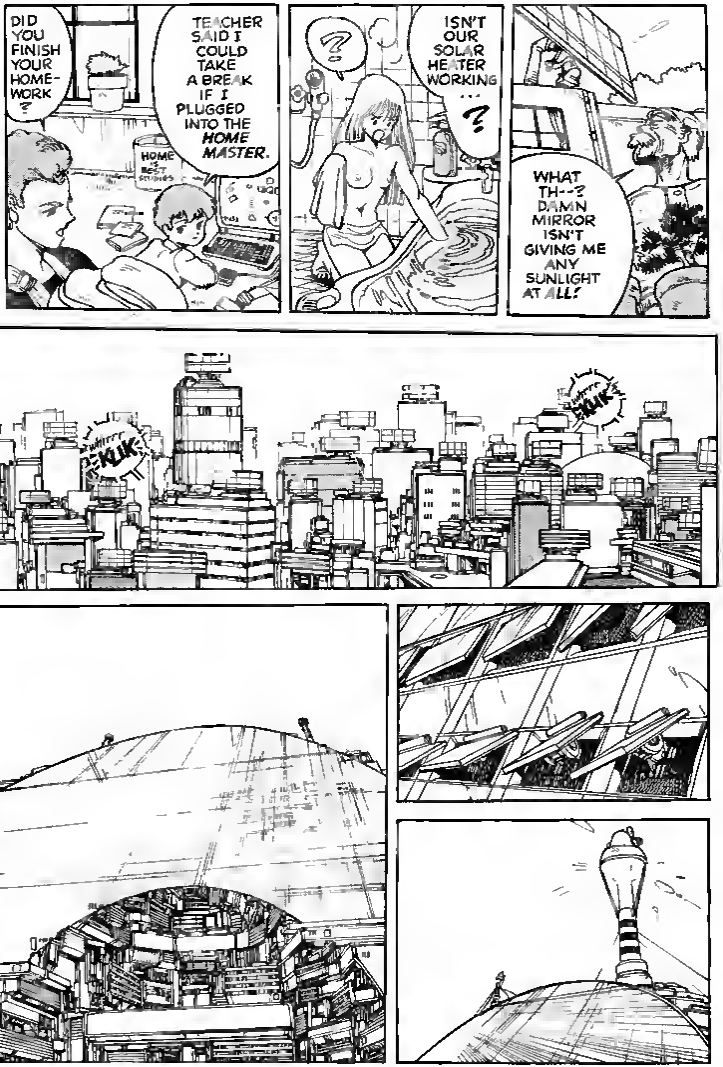

I DON'T LIKE DOING THIS...
I'M AFRAID IT'S NECESSARY-- THE PEOPLE EXPECT IT OF YOU.

"THE GUN PLATFORMS ARE ON SEMI-AUTOMATIC THEY'VE SHUT DOWN THEIR VARIABLE-STRATEGY CIRCUITS." GOT IT?
GEE, DEUNAN, IF THE PARADE GOES OKAY, THEN--
THEN I'LL TAKE YOU RIGHT BACK TO YOUR CELL, DON'T YOU WORRY
EXCUSE ME...
HITOMI'S *LOOSE?*
YES'M
THE COLONEL AND HIS MEN ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY TO GAIA.
WHO WOULD WANT TO CAUSE A PANIC *NOW*...?
NO, THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE-- THE GUN PLATFORMS AREN'T--
WAIT!
WHAT IF GAIA'S ONE JUMP AHEAD OF ME...?!

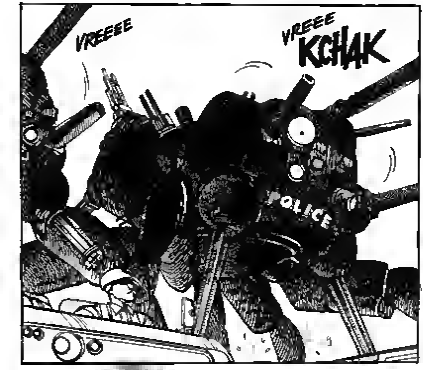
AAAAHHHHHHH!
Ooh!
BIG ...?
WAHH! MOMMY!
WOW!
FOR A MOMENT, LET US PUT ASIDE THE GLOBAL DEBATE OVER THESE MONSTROUS MACHINES AND JUST LOOK AT THE GUN PLATFORMS AS THEY PASS BEFORE US ...
KSHANG
KSHANG
WHAT IS IT THOSE BALEFUL LENSES GLARE AT? SECRET REARMAMENT BY THE OLD SUPERPOWERS? THEIR HIDDEN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ?

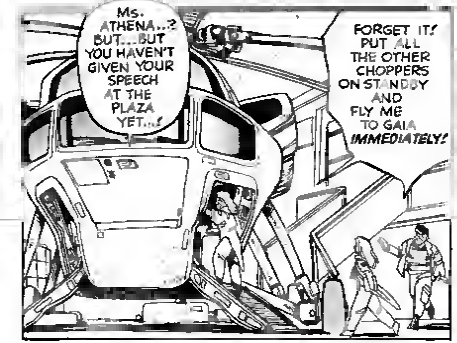

POLICE
HEY!

POLICE
MOBIL MASTER 1


DID YOU FINISH YOUR HOME-WORK?
TEACHER SAID I COULD TAKE A BREAK IF I PLUGGED INTO THE HOME MASTER.
HOME MASTER
?
ISN'T OUR SOLAR HEATER WORKING ...?
WHAT TH--? DAMN MIRROR ISN'T GIVING ME ANY SUNLIGHT AT ALL!
KLIK
KLIK

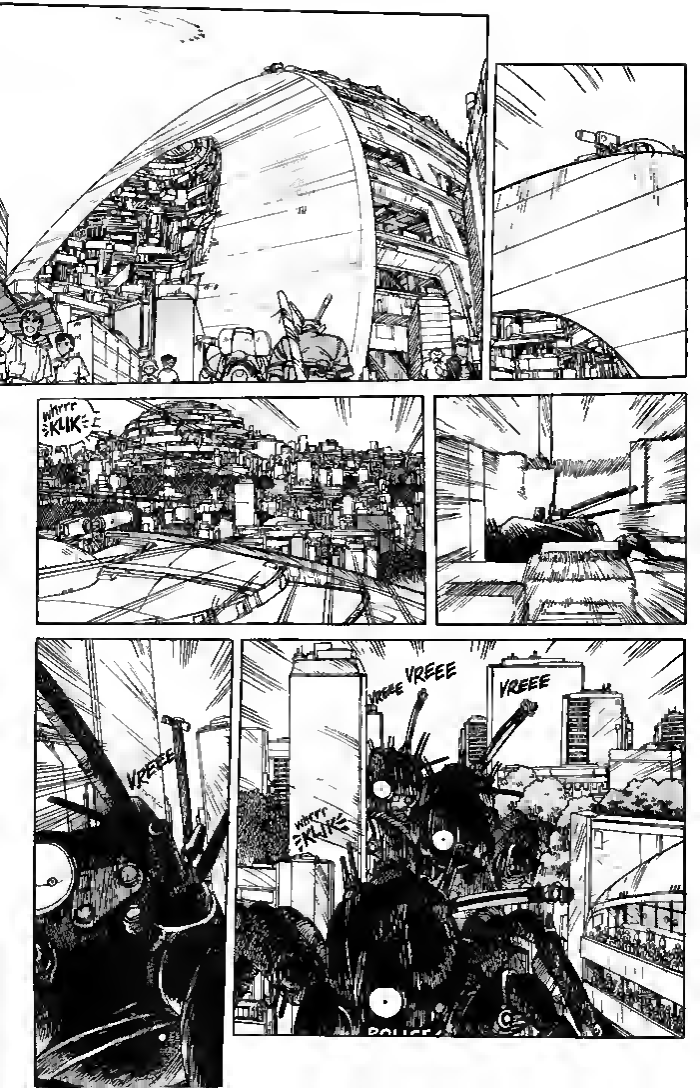
TARTARUS CONTROL ROOM
WHAT'S GOING ON? ALL THE HELIOSTATS IN THE CITY ARE FOCUSING ON OUR TOWER!
HEY! THE EMERGENCY NUKE PLANT JUST KICKED IN!
HIT THE OVERLOAD CIRCUITS!
GAIA'S OFF OUR POWER FEED - NO EXPLANATION!
WHAT THE HELL'S SHE TRYING TO DO- WIPE OUT THE WHOLE NEXT GENERATION OF BIORDIDS?!
TAKA TAK
TAKA TAK




MS. ATHENA..? BUT...BUT YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN YOUR SPEECH AT THE PLAZA YET...!
FORGET IT! PUT ALL THE OTHER CHOPPERS ON STANDBY AND FLY ME TO GAIA IMMEDIATELY!

THE FIXED AND VARIABLE STRATEGY PROGRAMS MAY HAVE BEEN REVERSED! THERE'S AN OPTICAL SIGNALLER ON TOP OF THE GAIA COMPLEX FOR RELAYING COMMANDS TO THE GUN PLATFORMS--
I WANT IT TAKEN OUT RIGHT NOW!

HELIOSTAT: MIRRORS USED FOR CONCENTRATING SUNLIGHT ON SOLAR ENERGY POWERPLANT TOWERS.


WHYYY
KLIK
VREEE
VREEE
VREEE
WHYYY
KLIK
VREEE

BLAM BLAM
BBOOM
WAOW!! WHAT A SHOW!!
Eh? WHAT'D YOU SAY?
WHAT
KOOM!
TARTARUS

DAMN! IT'S STARTED!
HURRY! WE DON'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT IN THE PANIC!
WHUP
WHUP
WHUP
I WORRIED TOO MUCH ABOUT THE COUNCIL!
I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D STRIKE TARTARUS FIRST! DAMN YOU, GAIA!
BUT WHY IS SHE DOING IT? JUST BECAUSE OF THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL ..?
A MERE MACHINE! IS THIS HER REVENGE ON BIOROIDS AND THE PLAN .? CAN SHE BE THAT BITTER ABOUT BEING A TOOL?

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presents: Appleseed